(b) if so, whether Government have received the report of the CVC;

(c) if so, whether any action has been initiated on the receipt of CVC; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. CVC has not set-up any enquiry in the matter relating to the "expenditure curred for the Training Centre and for the Hostel constructed by the authority of MTNL".

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Review of IT Act, 2000

2510. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference of the Expert Panel set up to review the Information Technology Act, 2000 and were the compulsion of Government to set up this Panel when the Act was promulgated only four years ago;

(b) whether any structural deficiencies in the Act or lack of foresight of variegated issues relating to e-governance and cyber laws, off shoring clients raising questions about India's data-protection laws, etc. at that point of time in 2000; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that all relevant associations/ NGOs etc. are taken into confidence by the Expert Panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The terms of reference of the Expert Panel set up to review the Information Technology Act, 2000 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

The main objective of the IT Act, 2000 is to promote Electronic Commerce and Electronic Governance through the enabling legislation to legally recognise the electronic media as equivalent of paper based system including cyber security, data protection and cyber crimes.

Electronic Commerce and Electronic Governnance are on-going evolution and as a result of fast developments, there is need to continuously

harmonise the entire infrastructure and statutes with the changing requirements.

The IT Act 2000 is based on the Model Law prepared by United Nation's Commission on International Trade and Laws (UNCITRAL) of January 1997. However, for reasons explained above, UNCITRAL came up with revised Model Law in December 2001. Further the September 11 episode of the World Trade Center New York posed certain challenges for the cyber security and a re-look was felt essential. In additional there are several other technological developments taken place due to convergence of computers, communications and content and it is therefore necessary to examine their impact on the legislation, if any.

Therefore, Department of Information Technology has set up the Expert Panel to re-examine the Information Technology Act, 2000 in the light of the above issues.

(b) The IT Act 2000 is based on the Model Law prepared by United Nation's Commission on International Trade and Laws (UNCITRAL) of January 1997. Therefore, the Act had taken tino accont all the relevant issues including the international inputs at that point in time.

The Expert Panel would go into the details of changes or new legislation required to curb the cyber crimes under the IT Act or any other laws of the land.

The matter of data protection being raised by the off-shoring clients, especially by those from the member countries of European Union (EU) is also one the terms of reference of the Expert Panel.

(c) The Expert Panel already has adequate representation of relevant associations, industry experts and the law professionals. Any other consultations required would also be carried out appropriately.

Statement

Terms of reference of Expert Panel to review Information Technology Act 2000

1. To re-exaine the IT Act, 2000 so as to ensure that the Act remains enabler to development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and has adequate measures for promoting growth

of electronic commerce and electronic governance in the country and also for regulating cyber crimes and cyber forensics as well as addresses all aspects of the cyber security etc. in a manner that there is no socpe for different interpretations and follows the international guidelines for uniformity to gain from the process of globalisation.

2. To consider the recommendations made by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Cyber Law & Cyber Forensics & finalize the amendments to the IT Act, 2000.

3. To consider and recommend suitable legislation for data protection (Privacy) in the IT Act, 2000.

4. To consider the feability of making IT Act, 2000 technology neutral and recommend necessary amendments to the IT Act, 2000.

5. To consider the additional feedback and suggestions received by the government and recommend suitable amendments to the IT Act 2000.

6. To consider the issues of regulation of operations of cyber cafes and blocking of websites within the IT Act.

7. To consider the matter of India signing the European Cyber Crimes Treaty and make suitable recommendations.

Electronic waste

2511. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that within the next few years, electronics waste or e-waste is also going to become a major issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Electronics Industry is the world's largest and fastest growing